

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WO 6050-Lg/jdh	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/EP 03/50993	International filing date (day/month/year) 12.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 20.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H01R13/502		
Applicant FCI		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13.07.2004	Date of completion of this report 15.03.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Demol, S Telephone No. +31 70 340-4460



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EXAMINATION REPORT**

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-24 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2-17, 19-20, 22-24
	No: Claims	1, 18, 21
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-24
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-24
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6 019 627 (VERMAETE CHRISTOPHE ET AL) 1 February 2000 (2000-02-01)

- 1) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Cable connector (1,3,5) comprising a housing having a die-cast base (1) substantially extending between a front side and a rear side of said connector (1,3,5) whereby a die-cast first housing part (3) mounted to said die cast base (1) such that said die-cast first housing part (3) and a first portion of said die-cast base (1) determine a first cable connector portion at said rear side a metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) mounted to said die-cast base (1) such that said metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) and a second portion of said die-cast base (1) determine a second cable connector portion at said front side.

- 2) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Method of assembling a cable (6,7) to a cable connector (1,3,5) according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
providing a cable (6,7) having a cable ferrule in said first portion of said die-cast base (1)

mounting said metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) to said second portion of said die-cast base (1)

mounting said die-cast first housing part (3) to said first portion of said die-cast base (1) while clamping protrusions (33,34) of said metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) between said cable ferrule and said die-cast first housing part (3)

- 3) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 21 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Metal sheet formed housing part (5) of a cable connector (1,3,5), said cable connector further comprising a die-cast base (1) substantially extending between a front side and a rear side of said cable connector (1,3,5) and a die-cast housing part (3) adapted to be mounted to said die-cast base (1), wherein said metal sheet formed housing part (5,30) is adapted to be mounted to said die-cast base (1) and said die-cast housing part (3)

- 4) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 2-17, 19-20 and 22-24 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

These dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty or inventive step.

In claims 2-17, 19-20 and 22-24 a slight constructional change in the device or method of claim independent claim on which they depend is defined which comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the subject-matter of these claims also lacks an inventive step.

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- 5) Claims 1-24 relate to subject-matter regarding electrical connections, consequently the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims, as required by Article 33(4) PCT, is fulfilled.